A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A47B19/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A47B A47C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
A	US 5 899 422 A (EKE ALAN) 4 May 1999 (1999-05-04) abstract; figures 1,2	1-38	
Α	US 5 690 303 A (WINTERS HENRY) 25 November 1997 (1997-11-25) abstract; figures 1-5	1-38	
Α	GB 1 315 833 A (DAINTY K J) 2 May 1973 (1973-05-02) abstract; figures 1-4	1-38	
Α	WO 00/59344 A (GWYNNETH MARK) 12 October 2000 (2000-10-12) abstract; figures	1-38	
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.		
<ul> <li>Special categories of cited documents:</li> <li>'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search  22 December 2004  Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Date of mailing of the international search report  26/01/2005  Authorized officer  MacCormick, D		

	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 768 766 A (BAIN A) 30 October 1973 (1973-10-30) abstract; figure 1	1-38
	US 3 185 423 A (JONES III LEE B) 25 May 1965 (1965-05-25) column 1, line 7 - line 15; figures 1-6	1-38
	US 5 490 648 A (CULLEN CHRISTOPHER P) 13 February 1996 (1996-02-13) abstract; figures	1-38
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## nformation on patent family members

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US 5899422	Α	04-05-1999	NONE		
US 5690303	Α	25-11-1997	NONE		
GB 1315833	Α	02-05-1973	NONE		
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US 3185423	Α	25-05-1965	NONE		
US 5490648	Α	13-02-1996	NONE		